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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

All persons desiring to obtain copies of the proceedings of the Chicago Peace Congress are asked to send in their names at once. The Directors of the American Peace Society have just decided to publish an edition as soon as it can be gotten out. The report will contain all the papers read before the Congress, all the extemporaneous speeches, the resolutions, etc. It will make a pamphlet of about 250 pages, and will be sold for just enough to cover the expense of publication, we hope not over 30 or 40 cents per copy, post paid. The Peace Societies wanting a large number of copies will kindly let us know how many they will take.

The Parliament of Religions at Chicago has apparently been successful beyond the expectations of its most sanguine friends. It seemed to many a hopeless and absurd task to try to hold such a parliament. Its purposes have been studiously misrepresented, perhaps we should say, misunderstood, from the beginning. There was no thought of compromise by its projectors, and none by any of the religions consenting to be represented. So far as can be seen, there has been entire freedom from compromise in its proceedings. Everybody who has appeared on the platform has said what he liked about the faith which he represented. It is too soon to judge of the fruits of the gathering. It will take them a long time to ripen. The parliament itself is one of the best evidences of the changed spirit of the world. The truth is to-day held in love as never before.

It must not be forgotten that it is Christianity which has made this Parliament possible.

Christianity invited these faiths of other lands to come and tell their story. It sent out this invitation in the spirit of love and brotherhood. No other religion has the strength and the courage and the confidence in itself to do such a thing. Is it conceivable that Christianity should suffer from doing its own work, from exhibiting the spirit of its founder? Christianity is to conquer and supplant all the other religions of the world, at least in so far as they are false, and this parliament is one of the steps toward this ultimate triumph. We should not be surprised, however, if this Palestinian faith, the heir of all the ages and the crowning glory of coming centuries, shall have learned at Chicago some lessons which will be very useful to it in the future. It will not only know other religions better, but will have a truer conception of itself, of the spirit which becomes a faith which had its origin in the supreme act of personal self-sacrifice.

The relations between France and Siam are still strained. The dispatches indicate that the French special envoy, Mr. de Vilers, has acted in a blunt and insolent

way, which has greatly offended the Siamese government, and that the unsettled condition of affairs is due to his having studiously concealed the intentions of France. For the honor of France, it is to be hoped that the wires are wrong.

The information that comes from Brazil and Argentina is not very definite, but the condition of things in the two countries is certainly deplorable. The rebellion in Brazil has assumed serious proportions. Many of the principal buildings in Rio Janeiro were destroyed in the bombardment by the rebel fleet. One of the staff of the London and Brazilian Bank was killed. The English Government are looking on the situation with grave anxiety. If the rebellion should be successful it would merely prepare the way for another imbroglio. It is not principles, but personal restlessness and unscrupulous ambition which are at the bottom of these South American commotions. No form of government is worth much where the people are morally perverted.

The following letter has been received from Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador to the United States, containing Queen Victoria's reply to the cablegram sent her by the Chicago Peace Congress at the time that the Behring Sea decision was announced :

NEWPORT, Aug. 30, 1893.

GENTLEMEN :

I am desired by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform you that the Queen has received your telegram congratulating Great Britain and America, on behalf of the World's Peace Congress at Chicago, on the triumph of arbitration as a substitute for war, exemplified in the Behring Sea decision; and I have the honor, in pursuance of Her Majesty's command, transmitted to me by the Earl of Rosebery, to request that you will convey to the World's Peace Congress the Queen's thanks for their message.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

MESSRS. R. T. PAINE,  
W. E. DARBY,  
A. H. LOVE.

The report comes that the five nations of Central America are again thinking of forming a confederation. Seventy years ago such a confederation was made, but it soon fell to pieces. It would be much better, financially and otherwise, for the Central American Republics to unite in one nation like our own. The five nations combined would make only a comparatively small one. Their language, habits, and largely their traditions are the same, and there is nothing in the way of a successful confederacy whenever they are minded to have it.

After the vote in the House of Representatives on the repeal of the Sherman silver law, it was to have been

expected that the Senate would find a speedy way of giving its judgment. In this expectation the country has been greatly disappointed. The subject has been made the occasion for extensive speech making, from most of which the country has received no enlightenment and the Senate itself but little. It has declined to adopt the closure measure, which any legislative body not only has a right to do but ought to do, where the interests of legislation demand it. The Senate has thus put itself at the mercy of the silverites, if they choose to filibuster. There is now talk among Senators of a compromise measure, in which all may agree. The President is said to be unalterably opposed to this, and the country is solidly with him. Public confidence, in the mean time, is resting on an inclined plane, not knowing whether to go up or down.

The Gladstone home rule bill passed in the House of Commons on September 1st by a vote of 301 to 267. The debate, which had continued for eighty days, was closed with a fine display of oratory, John Morley's speech being considered one of the best which the Irish Cause has ever inspired. The division took place amid unusual solemnity. When the result was known the Irish members showed their deep feelings of gratitude to the Prime Minister by a storm of applause. Four days later the measure was taken up by the Peers, and debated but three days. When the motion on the second reading was put the measure was defeated by the overwhelming vote of 419 to 41. This result, not unforeseen except in the matter of the size of the majority, has made the House of Lords, for the time being, the liveliest question in England. Not even the contemptuous laughter with which the vote was received by some of their Lordships, can prevent them from feeling, before long, the fire beneath the ashes under their feet. The English people are not to be laughed down. This action of the Lords will hasten home rule, and possibly something else. The Liberals have issued a manifesto, and Mr. Gladstone is, at this moment, just about to arise at Edinburgh, to tell the world what he thinks of the Lords.

"Peace — the Last and Greatest Reform," was the subject of an address given at the Washington County Fair, Kingston, R. I., on the thirteenth of September, by the Secretary of the American Peace Society. It was W. C. T. U. day at the Fair, and it was at the invitation of this organization that the address was given. A good audience was present, among whom were some of the most prominent citizens of Kingston.

The London Peace Society has received the magnificent sum of \$50,000 by the will of the late John Horniman, of Croydon.

Mr. Horniman, who died on August 12th at the age of

ninety years, had been one of the most active and generous of the friends of peace in England. Some years ago he offered prizes for a series of Illustrated Peace Tracts. These tracts have been widely distributed. He especially advised and practically encouraged the diffusion of peace literature in every practical way and the utilization of the general press for the spread of peace principles. He was greatly interested in the Temperance cause, in the movement for the abolition of capital punishment, in the Howard Association, in Home and Foreign Missions.

The Peace Society is to be congratulated on the reception of this gift. Its work has made it richly worthy to be thus remembered by its friends.

The Earl of Rosebery, British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has addressed to Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador at Washington, the following letter:

"SIR:

"I transmit to your Excellency copy of a resolution which was passed in the House of Commons on the 16th ult., expressing sympathy with the action taken by the Congress of the United States in favor of the settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

"Her Majesty's Government have pleasure in bringing this resolution to the knowledge of the Government of the United States, and would be glad if the President should see fit to lay it before both Houses of Congress.

"I request that your Excellency will communicate a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with an intimation to the above effect.

"I am, etc.,

ROSEBERY."

"A New Industrial World" is the title of an address delivered by our honored co-worker, Mr. Hodgson Pratt, on the occasion of the meeting in the Crystal Palace, from the 18th to the 23d of August, of the Sixth National Co-operation Festival, of which he was the President. The address, which has since been printed in pamphlet form, is an admirable presentation of the subject of industrial co-operation.

"We have but to look," says the author, "at the sublime lessons of nature in order to learn how, in every portion of this globe, both on the earth and under it, in every sentient creature, in every flower and tree, in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom, there is a marvellous provision for man's happiness and enjoyment. The earth under our feet and the heavens above bear hourly witness that love has been the source of every fact in nature. If, then, there is misery, suffering and wrong among men, it must come from them, and from their ignorance and selfishness. It is for them to obey the eternal laws of right, to fulfil the designs of the Creator, to bring among men and in human institutions the same harmony, the same beneficence, the same joy and progress, which it was clearly the design of the Creator to give to all his creatures."

The sad news has just reached us of the death of Louis Ruchonnet, President of the Fourth Universal Peace Congress.